

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - JAN. 13, 1900.

## THE ELDERS' OPPORTUNITY.

The Chattanooga News recently gave place to an extended article from the pen of Elder Ben E. Rich, President of the Southern States mission. It was a reply to a virulent attack upon the "Mormon" Church by Rev. Dr. Broughton. Every point attempted to be made by that minister was effectually met by Elder Rich, and his arguments and deductions completely demolished. The Deseret News has not space to reproduce both the attack and the defense, and as it might not be considered fair to publish the reply without giving the text of the assault, we do not print either, both being quite lengthy.

The agitation which has been occasioned by the endeavor to exclude from Congress the Representative from Utah, has opened a larger field than ever for the labors of the Elders. They will probably take advantage of the opportunities afforded. Public inquiry is aroused. People who cared nothing for "Mormonism" and little for any religion, desire now to learn something of the system that is causing such a stir in the world. This is the good that is coming out of the evil intended.

While things were quiet, folks who attended church or read the papers, took for granted what the preachers and the editors said about the "Mormons." But this noise that has been made stimulates investigation. Thinking people perceive that there must be something more than common in a religion and a people so bitterly assailed. This is the time for the Elders to follow them up, preach the Gospel, explain the truth, dissipate the errors that have been promulgated, and show the superiority of the faith revealed from Heaven in the nineteenth century, over the creeds of men which contain but a modicum of the pure doctrines of the Savior of the world.

While we do not advocate contention nor wish to stir up strife, we think the course pursued by Elder Rich and Elder Whitaker, and some other valiant defenders of the faith, in replying, through the press and otherwise, to the misrepresentations of sectarian preachers and anti "Mormon" editors, is proper and timely but should not be followed by those who are not qualified for the task. Preach the Gospel, bear testimony of its restoration, of the ushering in of the dispensation of the fulness of times, of the impending advent of the Redeemer, and of the consummation of all things spoken of by the Holy Prophets, and leave the result with Him who is at the head of this work, and who will overrule all things that happen to bring about His divine purposes.

## THE POSITION OF THE "NEWS."

The Board of Education on Friday evening wrestled with the proposition to exclude unvaccinated children from the schools, but made no progress towards its solution. It decided, however, to continue the vacation one more week, so as to give further opportunity for the vaccination of children, whose parents are willing to submit to the arbitrary will of the majority of one on that board. The meeting was adjourned until Friday next, when the subject is to be once more discussed, before the rule requiring vaccination as a pre-requisite to admission to the schools, is to be put in force or rescinded.

The Deseret News desires it to be distinctly understood, that while it has given place to communications which are opposed to the theory and practice of vaccination, its own opposition is and has been all along simply against the compulsion which is being exercised under the guise of a school regulation. In addition to that, it has objected to the dogmatic assertions of a few members of the medical fraternity in this city, which reflect upon everybody who disbelieves in the opinions they entertain. When it is declared, for the purpose of influencing the City Council and the Board of Education, that no reputable physician is opposed to vaccination, they state that which is untrue.

We have to repeat, once more, that our fight is on behalf of the people who resist the unwarranted attempts to encroach upon their rights and liberties. Let those who believe in vaccination or who, unbelieving, are willing to submit to the dictum of unauthorized officials, have their children vaccinated or be vaccinated themselves, and the News will make no objection. Our protest is against the endeavor to force upon the taxpayers of this city, something that hosts of them reject and which they will resist to the last extremity.

The columns of the News have not been closed against arguments or figures in support of the vaccination theory. They have been open to both sides alike. The excuse, which has been made, that physicians of the "regular" or allopathic school cannot condescend to reply to persons who are not recognized by the orthodox, counts for nothing. It is not the professional standing of individuals that is in controversy, it is the question of the right of any board or official to assume power not

conferred by law and which the State Legislature refused to establish. Incidentally the main question of the benefits or otherwise of vaccination itself has been introduced. It is no answer to the arguments on the negative side to assail the qualifications or reputation of the gentlemen who offer them.

That there are intelligent, educated, professional and distinguished people who oppose compulsory vaccination and also vaccination itself, the libraries of Europe and America establish beyond successful contradiction.

The following are some of the notable people who are connected with the London society for the abolition of compulsory vaccination.

The president is William Tebb, Esq., F. G. S.; the vice-presidents are Joseph Arch, Esq., M. P.; Thomas Burt, Esq., M. P.; F. A. Channing, Esq., M. P.; J. W. Loran, Esq., M. P. Sir Isaac Holden; Sir Isaac Pittman.

Among the members are these: A. M. Brown, M. D., of the Colonial Institute; Walter R. Hadwen, M. R. C. S. L. R. C. P.; E. F. Hogan, M. D.; J. J. Garth Wilkinson, M. D. M. R. C. S.; George Brown, D. Sc.; Isaac Dorsey, F. S. S.; George S. Gibbs, F. S. S.; William Gordon Little, M. B. C. M. M. A.; Prof. Arnold Sutton, F. G. S.; John E. B. Mayor, M. A., fellow of St. John's Coll. and University of Cambridge; Alfred Mills, M. A. F. S. S.; H. N. Mozley, M. A., barrister at law; Emeritus Prof. Francis Wm. Newman; Arthur Trobridge, F. S. S.; the Earl of Dysart; Lord Clifton; Lord Archibald Douglas; Sir George Penrose; Count Alfred of Hompesch; The Countess DeNoailles, etc., etc.

The above are but a few of the "ignorant" persons of "no repute," to use the language of some of our local practitioners, who belong to the London Society, while the National Anti-Vaccination League of England contains such a long list of celebrated names in medicine, in law, in literature and in parliament, that we have not space to give them. The president of both societies is a celebrated writer on medical subjects, who has made investigations personally of the evils of vaccination for twenty-five years, not only in England, but in the West Indies, British Guiana, Venezuela, the Sandwich Islands, Australasia, Ceylon and South Africa.

On the European continent there are large numbers of eminent doctors associated with the various anti-vaccination societies which have held congresses in Paris, in Geneva and in Berlin. Perhaps it will be conceded that Dr. Adolph Vogt of Berne, Switzerland, professor of the Medical University of Bonn, Germany, and Dr. Ruata, professor of the Medical University of Perugia, Italy, who have been delegates to some of these conventions, are "reputable" physicians and not "ignorant" or "unprogressive." Doctors G. F. Kolb of Munich, H. Oldmann also of Germany, H. Boering of Uderingen, and a host of other celebrities, who have thoroughly investigated the subject and have personally tested its merits and demerits, are also pronounced opponents of the vaccination theory.

In the United States there are many "reputable" physicians who are opposed to vaccination, and societies have been formed for its abolition. The works published by T. B. Gifford, M. D., Alexander Milton Ross, M. D., M. A., F. R. S. L., W. B. Clark, M. D., M. R. Levenson, M. D., G. W. Winterburn, M. D., Alex. Wilder, M. D., G. W. Dutton, M. D., are a few of the writings of learned physicians which demonstrate the fallacies of vaccination in this country. They are supported by such members of the profession as G. W. Winterburn, M. D., Ph. D., Robert A. Gunn, M. D., of New York, Constantine Herling, M. D., Philadelphia, R. J. Newton, M. D., Boston, A. G. Springstein, M. D., Cleveland, S. P. Munn, M. D., Waterbury, Conn.; etc., etc.

Some of the doctors seem to think that to oppose compulsory vaccination is to be on the side of the non-progressive. They are mistaken. The advocates of compulsion are behind the times. The modern tendency goes in the opposite direction. Great Britain has repealed the compulsion clause of its vaccination law, as did Switzerland in 1895, after a long struggle. It may be of interest to the medical fraternity to know that Dr. Vogt, professor of hygiene in the medical faculty of the University of Berne, headed the anti-vaccination league, and that compulsion was put down by the vote of the people, after numerous affidavits had been presented, showing the terrible effects in many cases of vaccination. Are we to learn nothing from these experiences?

If the attempt had not been renewed to force upon the people of this city something which a majority of them reject and which many of them abhor, the contention might not have arisen. At any rate the "News" would not have taken up the cudgels against the local authorities, nor against the respected physicians who still practice on the lines of the old school and whose training is all in that direction. We denounce the policy of force. Compulsory vaccination is a relic of despotism and tyranny and will certainly disappear with other oppressions and barbarities. Our stand is for liberty and the rights of the citizens, and we are not to be deterred by the threats of the presumptuous or the anger of dogmatism.

## CHRISTIANITY AND PEACE.

Max Nordau in the North American Review arraigns Christianity for having a practice so entirely different from the theory with regard to the peace question. Over the portals of the church, he says, glows the inscription: "Peace on earth and good will to men," but the church has hardly ever prevented a war. Very often she has put the sword into the hands of her followers. "She exterminated the Goths because of their Arianism, and does not seem to see that it is blasphemy to ask the God of love to look with favor upon murder and destruction; or to ask the God of the universe to take sides with one portion of His children against another portion; especially when she knows that that other portion is turning to God with exactly the same impetuous request."

The author scores particularly the clergymen. He says never has one of

them had the common sense to say: "I refuse to pray for the victory of our arms." No head of a state church has dared to say to the temporal authorities, when these were asking for a blessing upon armies: "You desire war, and our God teaches peace. I cannot bless the hand armed to maim and kill men. If you must shed blood, do so; but do not mix God and His religion with your devil's work."

Dr. Nordau is a close observer and a fascinating writer, but he is certainly wrong in ascribing the war spirit of the world to the religion of Jesus. That that spirit still so largely prevails is due to the almost entire absence of the influence of that religion upon the world, not to its presence there.

The Master Himself declared that the effect of His coming would be not peace but a sword. But it was not He, it was His enemies, who drew the sword. In every age when light has flashed forth from the divine abode and illuminated the understanding of God's children, darkness has mustered its forces and arrayed them against the favored ones. Paganism put on its armor against the first Church, and a sanguinary contest followed that lasted through centuries. Against the Reformation Rome arrayed herself. And there came wars, contentions and disunion, that are seen to this day. And when in this latter age again the Lord opened communication with heaven, Protestantism followed in the footsteps of Roman paganism and Catholicism, and the result has been strife, heart-burnings, martyrdom. It is all due to the fact that the world will not yield to the rule of Jesus.

But His religion will prevail at last, and with it universal peace. The decree of the Almighty has gone forth: "I have set my King upon my holy hill of Zion." It is, in the divine council, an accomplished fact.

## DR. BRIGGS'S CRITICISM.

Rev. Charles A. Briggs, the famous "higher critic," has recently startled his brethren by denying the pre-existence of the Son of God. Our Lord's testimony to the people of His time, that He existed before Abraham, should settle any controversy on that point, but a certain class of critics do not frame their theology in accordance with the Scriptures, but trim the sacred records until they conform with their own views and desires. They act as the savage prince, who, having cut out all the passages he did not like, pronounced the Bible a most excellent volume.

Dr. Briggs says the most natural explanation of the Scripture text referred to is this, that Jesus existed before Abraham, because God immediately after the sin and fall of our first parents determined to redeem mankind by sending Him into the world, and promised to our first parents "the woman's seed;" to Abraham, "the seed of inheritance;" to Moses a Prophet greater than Himself, and so on. This, it is suggested, may also be the meaning intended to be conveyed by John, when he opens his gospel with this declaration: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Fortunately, this question, which may yet prove a stumbling block to some of the followers of the church creeds, can cause no confusion among the Latter-day Saints. Like so many other similar points of controversy, it is settled by the revelations and teachings given in this age. The Church has by revelation been placed in a position, in which her strength need not be exhausted in speculative inquiries and disputes, but can be used entirely for the accomplishment of her mission—the salvation of the living and the dead.

That the Son of God existed before His entrance into the earthly tabernacle is clear from many Scripture passages, among which the following should put an end to further argument. Our Savior himself prays: "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." If the Scriptures are true, this ends the controversy. The testimony of the Doctrine and Covenants is this: "Hearken and listen to the voice of Him who is from all eternity to all eternity, the great I Am, even Jesus Christ." (See 38: 1) This corroborates and explains the ancient Scriptures and renders doubt on this important point impossible, to the believer in the written word of God.

On one point Rev. Briggs will be sustained by both revelation and reason. He says:

"Those people are mistaken who think we are to find the last and highest revelation in the teachings of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels. Jesus Himself tells us we are rather to find it in the teachings of the disciples, as they were guided by the Divine Spirit, to understand the great facts of the life of Jesus."

Revelation was never intended to cease with the writing of the gospels, nor the epistles. It was intended to shine continually as a light in a dark place, until the appearance of the morning. If the reverend gentleman could see this point clearly himself, and make it clear to others who look to him for guidance, he would lead theology in the channel where it alone ought to flow; he would supply the one thing needed in our age. Mr. Briggs seems to be groping around among the dark mysteries of "higher criticism." Now and then a gleam of light comes to him, as if to indicate the direction in which to go. And it points toward the happy condition, in which communication between God and the Church is restored, by the operation of the Holy Spirit through men inspired and endowed with divine authority. The world can be saved by nothing less.

## HERESY TRIALS.

The Presbyterian church is about to have another heresy trial. Rev. Arthur McGiffert is the defendant again, and the charges are substantially those made in 1898 in the general assembly.

A New York dispatch outlines the complaint then made. It was to the effect that McGiffert in his "History of Christianity in the Apostolic Age" treats the New Testament very irreverently. He denies its inspiration and the genuineness of more than one-half of the books composing it. The said volume, it is alleged, is a flagrant and ominous scandal, as it treats with open contempt

the obligations by which the author and all other Presbyterian ministers have bound themselves. "It is the most daring and thorough-going attack on the New Testament that has ever been made by an accredited teacher of the Presbyterian church in America." But the chief offense in all probability is this, that the author of the book denies "the great distinguishing principles of the Presbyterian doctrines of evangelical Christendom."

The Presbyterian church seems determined to give notoriety to its "heresy" and to advertise their "heretical" books as widely as lies in its power to do so. It has been proved time and again that in our time the very first effect of a "heresy" trial is to bring to the heretic a wide circle of students. For a religious organization, claiming no divine authority for its existence, to institute "heresy" trials is to tread dangerously near the boundaries of religious persecution.

A "heretic" in the New Testament language is one that "causes divisions" contrary to Apostolic teaching, not in an earnest effort to serve the Lord, but for selfish purposes. (1 Cor. 16: 17, 18.) "Heresy" is a sin placed in the same class as adultery, murder, drunkenness and such like, and declared to be "the works of the flesh." (Gal. 5: 19-21.) Those that proclaim "heresies" are said to be "false prophets," bringing upon themselves swift destruction. (2 Pet. 2: 1.) What is meant by a "heresy" trial, from a Scripture point of view, must be gathered from such passages.

At a time, when the Church was led by inspired men, who were in a position to ascertain the mind and will of the Almighty on questions of faith and practice, the power to sit in judgment upon the opinions and lives of the members could not be doubted.

The Apostles, on all important questions had the power to announce, "Thus saith the Lord." When they were assembled in conference upon questions of doctrine, their decision was dictated by the Holy Spirit (Acts, 15: 28.) and it followed that resistance to such a decision was equivalent to apostasy from the faith. It was disobedience to God.

Neither the Presbyterian nor any other church existing without the gifts and powers of the Church of the first Apostles, without inspired authority, should presume to exercise functions which cannot exist without those divine gifts and powers. In a merely human organization, who shall say what is "heresy" and what is not? Who shall stamp his brother as a "heretic"? When doctrine is formed by the process of human reasoning, why is not one opinion as authoritative as another, admitting that no human faculty is absolutely infallible? Who knows but that the "heretic" of today is the great church father of tomorrow?

The Presbyterian church with its "heresy" trials stamps itself as still living in the age of the inquisition. What would it do, had it the power? Its ranks are bound to become depleted by the course it takes. McGiffert may be wrong in some of his views, but it is impossible for him to be farther away from the truth than are some of his accusers.

## SANITATION NEEDED.

For the benefit of those who claim everything for vaccination and nothing for rational sanitation—speaking of the best way of stamping out a smallpox epidemic—the following statement of Dr. Joseph A. Biegler, of Rochester, N. Y., is copied from a little pamphlet:

"I could give the committee an illustration of the fact that smallpox is extinguished not by vaccination, but by the enlightened sanitation which is now adopted. In my experience as a commissioner in the Rochester board of health, I prevented the spread of smallpox, and am certain that a serious epidemic was extinguished by energetic measures in a case which occurred at that time. . . . A confluent case of smallpox in a row of rookeries of two city blocks filled with people from cellars to attics. . . . No second illustration of what can be done by energetic sanitary measures, that the facts which show the disastrous consequences to health and life which arise from vaccination, it should be sufficient for the legislature to act upon the fact that the disease can be extinguished as here stated, and that attacks upon the person by vaccination are unnecessary and unjustifiable. I may say for your information that I have served three terms in the city of Rochester as a health commissioner, constituting a service of five years. I have heretofore succeeded as commissioner of the health board in preventing the enforcement of measures in law, and since the expiration of my term, Dr. Brownell, president of the school board, has also succeeded to this line in preventing its enforcement."

The Board of Education is still working up business for the vaccinators. The piano strike in Chicago is still on, but the keynote is hardly a harmony of either sound or sense. No public schools for another week. Let all who are opposed to despotism and cow-pox poisoning wait. They will win at last.

Gen. Buller is said to have got behind the Boers at Colenso. If that be true, he should be in position for administering the long expected spanking. Which will be the first Eastern newspaper to demand the expulsion of Montana from the Union because of the unlawful acts of some of the men whom its people elected to office?

No one need fear that children whose parents pay taxes for their tuition will be excluded from the schools when the vaccination epidemic is over. The law is stronger than usurped authority.

The practicability of a Pacific cable between this country and its island possessions seems to be beyond all doubt, and actual construction work should be an event of the near future.

About the heaviest fall in the dropping of prices in Wall Street is that of the disposition to speculate. This had gone past the danger line, and it is a good thing that it has been checked by a panic movement no more serious in its general effects than that of last month.

"All on board lost" is a gloomy announcement for a ship at sea; and in the wreck off St. Johns, N. F., yesterday, the gloom is all the deeper for the

fact that the doomed vessel was in sight

of land and the heroic efforts of those on board to make their escape from death were viewed by the people, who were powerless to give assistance in the heavy storm raging.

It is said from London now that a hundred cowboy rough riders are worth a thousand English farmers and clerks on the field of battle. The most pronounced anti-English paper in this country would have been hoisted down at home, if it had made that comparison, referring to the American cowboy. But apparently "everything goes" in England now.

The taxpayers should not forget the election which is to take place next Saturday, to decide whether the board of education shall borrow \$20,000 to continue the schools a month longer than they have funds for in hand. If the schools are to be kept closed much longer, the time will be extended so that it will be pushed into the hot season. Two weeks of it will be gone by next Saturday.

The dislikes, hates, and jealousies told of in the London dispatches today as existing among leading officers in the British army, may have some basis of truth; but it is probable that the picture is overdrawn in the present hysterical state of a portion of the British public, brought about by a series of reverses and the later anxiety of no news from the front. It is highly improbable that the empire is in such a divided condition among its notable men as the criticizing London press would make it appear.

It is very comforting to know that the editor of the Tribune does not want either the editor of the "News" or the editor of the Herald, killed. This change of base is funny but characteristic. The readers of the Tribune never know what sort of an acrobatic turn it will take. First, it wanted "the editor of the News muzzled or killed." Next it did not want him "killed physically." Now it does not want him killed at all, and extends a similar generous exemption to the editor of the Herald. However it is hoping, according to its latest explanation, for a dispensation of Providence that will strike both editors dead, and thus save their would-be muzzler or killer from further suggestions as to their fate. So it appears that after all his twistings and shiftings he does want both editors killed, but hopes the Lord will do what he is afraid to attempt himself. The institution at Provo yawns for him.

Among the numerous New Years editions of our exchanges is that of the Chicago Times-Herald, a truly gigantic publication. It covers on its 64 pages many subjects of interest to newspaper readers, but devotes itself especially to reviews of the history of the world, and more particularly to that of Illinois, and Chicago, during the Nineteenth century. The Times-Herald certainly is representative of the art of newspaper making at the end of the nineteenth century, now rapidly passing away. What newspaper making will be at the end of the next century is hard to tell. But probably the tendency will be, after the century mark has been passed, to reduce the papers in size and to make them intrinsically more valuable as newspapers than they are now, as a rule. The Times-Herald is one of our most valued exchanges, and here's hoping that it may live and take part in another end-of-the-century debate, but on the right side.

The British correspondents at the battles of Gras Pan and Modder river tell of the magnificent heroism displayed by their troops under an appalling fire and in the intense heat. Those accounts should give American readers a still higher estimate of the accomplishment of their own troops at Santiago de Cuba, where the cover of the Spaniards, the intense heat of the July sun, and the appalling fire as shown by a heavier list of losses in less time than in the South African battles, are all on the side of El Caney and San Juan hill being more fiercely contested engagements.

Following the lead of Superintendent Andrews, the congregation of the University of Chicago has adopted the following resolution: "Resolved, That the adoption by the board of the University Press for use in the official publications and journals of the university of the list of words with changed spelling accepted by the National Education association be approved." The list of words thus "reformed" is as follows: Program (programme). Tho (though). Altho (although). Thoro (thorough). Thru (through). Thruout (throughout). Catalog (catalogue). Prologue (prologue). Decalog (decagogue). Pedagog (pedagogue). Byron, in castigating Scotch reviewers, referred to one of them as perverting the prophets and perverting the psalms, but so far as known, none of them attempted to shorten the decalog. That has been reserved for the National Teachers' association, Superintendent Andrews and the University of Chicago.

Chicago Times-Herald.

We are glad to know that Professor Shorey and several of his associates have been fighting the great spelling reform that is about to burst forth in the publications of the University of Chicago. Otherwise we should feel that a splendid institution of learning was irrevocably committed by a momentary freak and we would hope for better things. Let individuals indulge in these spelling eccentricities as they will. No one outside their wobbling orbit cares, not even when they get together in conventions and applaud themselves. But such antics are beneath the dignity of our great schools, which must avoid them if they would retain their authority and fulfill their duty to the public.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

It's ded ezy to see whi thoz Chicago University spelling reform, fellas hav kum out. It's a grand bluff, and reminds wun of the story of the French kweh hoo intredwed the fashion ov bustles, to konsele the fact that she waz deformed. Like a grate mound others of the products of modern higher edukashun, thay can't spli real. There skeme iz to get everybodyd eels to spli rong, as thay do, so that thay bamish will eskape overskashun. This iz spli in the Chicago stile. It is not bewtiful, nor doz it seem good, in komparison with the stile of spelling that haz developed by evolushun and embains the history of words. Besides, it is harder to spli this way than to spli the way the world iz used to. If peopl are obliged to learn to spli, whi shud not the labor be put upon thoz who don't know how, instead of upon thoz who do?

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